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Approved For Release 2006/01/12 : CIA-RDP86B00985R000100040053-0

To: [REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED] OBGI/GD/F

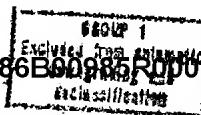
Subject: Comments on the Summer Internship

Date: 14 August, 1970

First, I would like to express my thanks to the numerous persons involved both in making my stay here this summer an enjoyable and educational experience and, indeed, in making it possible to begin with. As I consider the nature of the work that I have been involved in and the various sources of information to which I have been exposed, I am impressed by the Agency's willingness to spend the time and money to give its interns the necessary clearances despite the short duration of the interns' stay and their relatively low degree of productivity.

In terms of the structure and functioning of the internship program per se, a few brief comments will suffice to express my views. It appears that the program is intended, in general, to serve two purposes: First, to present an undistorted picture of the CIA and the nature of its work to a sampling of students, the group which as a whole is one of the most outspoken in its condemnation of the Agency and, second, to arouse an interest on the part of the interns in some of the career opportunities that exist in the Agency. From the viewpoint of my own experiences this summer, the program has successfully achieved the two purposes which I have hypothesized; I feel that I now more fully understand the role of the Agency in the U.S. government and its foreign policy, and I have been exposed to a variety of career opportunities, some of which I would be interested in pursuing in the future. Much of my new familiarity with the Agency and the intelligence community has been acquired as a result of the briefings conducted by the various components of the Agency. The briefings were definitely one of the high points of the internship and I feel that these could perhaps be expanded to include a wider range of the Agency's activities. In particular, I would have liked to have had briefings by DDP and DDS & T, although I realize that this might not be feasible. DDP is the most highly criticized facet of the Agency and the one which is often portrayed in the media as being representative of the activities of the entire Agency. Some type of general and/or historically oriented briefing would be both useful and informative.

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While the briefings were worthwhile in terms of the presentation of a general picture of the Agency, the greatest satisfaction that I derived from my internship came from my work and, to an even greater extent, from my close association with the individuals with whom I worked. The major portion of my time was spent on the Intelligence Mapping Program; even after having spent two months on it, each day's work is still devoid of any semblance of the slow-paced routine that is frequently associated with most types of work, summer jobs included. Further, my experience this summer has been tremendously educational in a number of ways. My exposure to the IMP has been personally very valuable in continuing my development in the application of photo interpretation as a geographic tool, and will undoubtedly prove to be an asset in my future work in this field. The opportunity to work with a wider variety and higher quality of authoritative information than is generally available to the student, and to learn how to organize and utilize this all-source information for use in problem-solving situations has also been very enlightening.

The experiences of this summer have broadened the range of my professional interests within the discipline of geography. Thus far in my academic training the major emphasis has been upon some of the more theoretical advances currently being made in the field, to the partial exclusion of some of its more "traditional" facets, such as area studies. This summer I have seen that the "newer" approaches in geography can be successfully combined with area studies, with the result that both become a good deal more exciting. Further, it has been very satisfying to see and, indeed, to personally make, the application of geographic analysis to relevant situations in the "real world", in contrast to the production of some purely theoretical academic studies which are rarely of any utilitarian value.

Before I began my internship I had an apprehension that the persons with whom I would be working would perhaps have a very narrow orientation in area specialties to the extent that current developments in geography would be ignored. I have found that this is not the case; the broadening of my own interests in the field that I have mentioned are largely due to the influence and example of the individuals with whom I spent the summer. Without exception, everyone with whom I have had any direct contact, particularly the members of my own branch and also those of the entire Geography Division, not only possessed an incredible knowledge of their own regional and topical specialties but also were very much involved in the entire range of the spectrum of geographic analysis, including some of its most current theoretical and esoteric facets. The people with whom it was my privilege to work were all professionals in both their attitudes and

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their accomplishments, and I feel that they are at least the equals of some of the better professionals that I have encountered in the academic world. Impressive also was that not only were these individuals extremely broad in their interests and current with the new developments in their field but also that it was the policy of their Office, Division, and Branch to encourage this application of advances in geography to the work of the Agency.

In terms of my general attitudes toward the Agency, the first thing that comes to mind is that I am now in a position to more objectively evaluate some of the stories concerning it and its activities that appear in the media. Although there are many things of which I am still unaware, I am impressed with both the function that the Agency performs and the manner in which it performs this function. Some additional observations: I was encouraged by the lack of bureaucratic encumbrances upon the personnel and components of the Agency, relative to other government organizations. Finally, the pervasive emphasis on education, both of the formal, academic nature and of the type designed to prepare the staff to perform their daily work more easily and efficiently is another aspect of the Agency that stood out in the course of the summer.

Respectfully,



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